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# MYCOLOGICAL BULLETIN

No. 36

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Columbus, Ohio, June 15, 1905

THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS NUMBER.—We have to thank Dr. O. E. Fischer for the photo of the elegant *Peziza* shown in Fig. 115. The etching in Fig 116 represents a saprophytic species of fungus found on old stems of the prickly lettuce. A common and abundant fungus, *Cli-toc'-y-be mul'-ti-ceps*, is shown in Figure 117. On the last page we give an illustration of *Pho-li-o'-ta u-nic'-o-lor*, also found near Columbus, a species perhaps not rare in this country.

THE GROUP NAMES.—Since plants are almost infinitely numerous one can readily see the necessity of grouping or classifying them, and therefore *names* of groups are a necessary evil, or rather a scientific necessity. Neither is it simply for convenience that botanists establish groups with appropriate names, but the verity of the groups and their proper arrangement exhibit plant affinities; and only by discerning these genetic relationships can we have any proper idea of the evolution of the plant kingdom, or conception of the unity and order in Nature that modern science has elucidated. A casual notice will show that there has been "order in this madness," for all the Ordinal names end with the syllables *a'-les*. In the next No. of the BULLETIN the Families constituting the Order *A-gar-i-ca'-les* will be given, and then it will be seen that the terminal syllables *ce-ae* suggest a family name. *Po-ly-po-ra'-ce-ae* is a case in point.

THE PEZIZAS AGAIN.—Some illustrations of these Cup-fungi have already been given; for example, *Pe-zi'-za re-tic-u-la'-ta* was shown in Figs. 20 and 21 (pp. 14 and 15); *Sar-co-scy'-pha oc-ci-den-ta'-le* and *Sar-co-scy'-pha flo-c-co'-sa* were illustrated in Figs. 36 and 37 (pp. 30 and 31); *Bul-ga'-ri-a in-qui'-nans* was given in Fig. 44 (p. 40); and *Pe-zi'-za ba'-di-a* in Fig. 61 (p. 66). These and related forms are readily referable to the family *Pe-zi-za'-ce-ae*. They are charming fungi—some of them extremely delicate, tiny and handsomely colored.

PE-ZI'-ZA, A LARGE GENUS.—As the earlier botanists used this generic term it included a very large number of species. In later times other genera have been carved out of it or formed to include special groups of

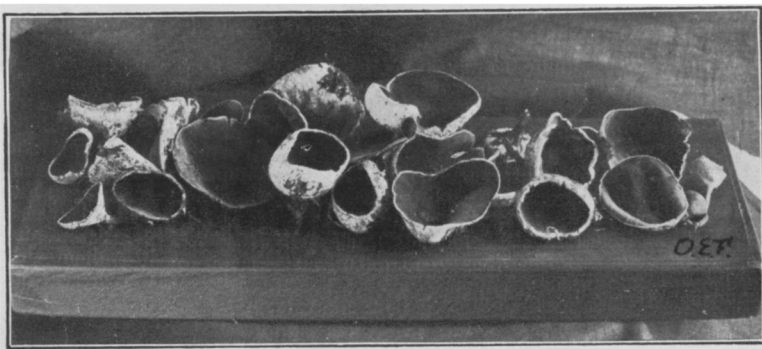


FIG. 115. PE-ZI'-ZA COC-CIN'-E-A (*Sar-co-scy'-pha coc-cin'-e-a*). Scarlet *Pe-zi'-za*. This beautiful plant appears very early in spring. It may be found in the woods growing on rotten logs or on decayed wood in the soil. The photo from which the cut was made was furnished by Dr. O. E. Fischer, Detroit, Michigan.

the species; thus we have Geophyxis, Acetabula, Otidia, Discina, Pyroneana, Humaria, Sarcoscypha, Lachnea and many others—and enough species left over to give *Peziza* a respectable standing as a genus.

THE NAME PE-ZI'-ZA.—This was given by Dillenius in 1819, taken from the Greek word, *Pezis*, used to designate “a mushroom without a stalk.” Some botanists, seized with a zeal for pure classical terminology, say this ought to be therefore “*Pe'-zis*,” not “*Pe-zi'-za*.” I am not competent to judge in the case, but at any rate this may be said, that *Pe-zi'-za* (not “*Pezis*”) was really the name given by Dillenius in 1819 and a good-enough name withal. Besides if this is to be changed to suit refined taste, then I suppose dozens if not hundreds of others may be drawn into the same category. Mycologists today are coining such names as *Rehmiomyces*, *Eichleriella*, *Prachtflorella*, and they seem to serve the purpose even if they are not classical Latin. The oldest name, that is, the first name given, illy or happily chosen, is the one to be used invariably, a rule which botanists call the *Principle of Priority*. A strict application of this perhaps will give, if anything will give it, stability in nomenclature, devoutly to be wished.

THE GROUP OF DIS'-CO-MY-CE'-TES.—The *Pezizas* serve well to illustrate the large group called *Dis'-co-my-ce'-tes*. These fungi have the spores in *as'-ci*; and the *hy-me'-ni-um*, or spore-bearing layer, forms the surface layer or bottom mostly of a *cup or saucer-shaped fruiting body*. The *Helvellas*, *Gyromitra*, *Bulgaria*, as well as *Peziza*, heretofore illustrated, belong to this group.

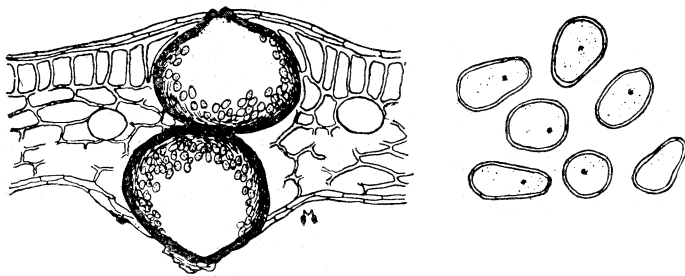


FIG. 116. PHY-LO-STIC'-TA A-SIM'-I-NAE. A LEAF-SPOT FUNGUS OF THE PAPAW. The figure shows a section through the leaf moderately magnified and at the right the spores (sporules) highly magnified. The spore-case is called the *pyc-nid'-i-um*, and this is formed, as shown in the figure, below the epidermis, though it is slightly erumpent when mature. Many of the *pyc-nid'-ia* are clustered in a single dead spot on the leaf which may be of circular or irregular outline; the *pycnidia* can be easily seen with a hand lens—sometimes even distinctly by the unaided eye. This is a parasitic species and the dead tissue of the leaf is caused by the presence of the fungus.

INTERESTING COMMON NAMES.—To some of the conspicuous *Pezizas* fanciful names have been applied, and it will be interesting to put them on record. It is said for example that they are called “Blood-cups,” “Fairy cups,” “Flaps,” “Bird’s-nests,” etc. The local names, if reported from various localities, will be listed; notice of special names in use of any or all kinds of Mushrooms is solicited.

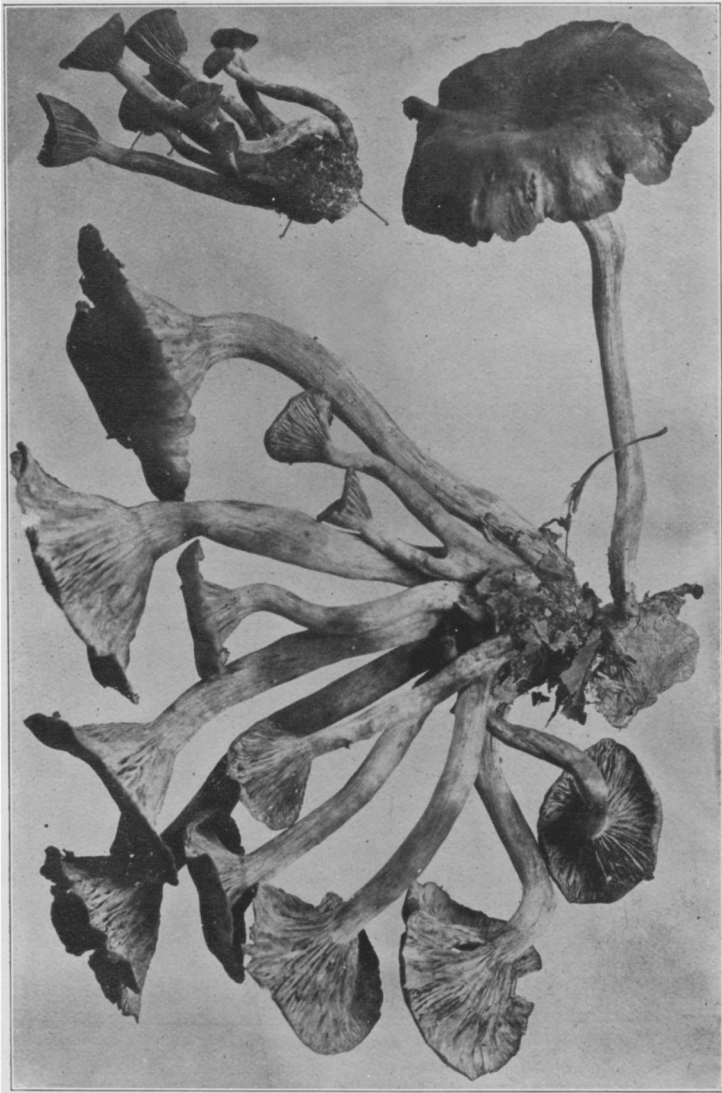


FIG. 117. CLITOCYBE MULTICEPS. Edible. *Multiceps* means "many-headed"—and this species like some other Clitocybes is caespitose, that is to say, tufted or with many stems crowded together. The plants are found in great abundance in a partially cleared woods near Columbus. It flourishes from the middle of the season till late in autumn.

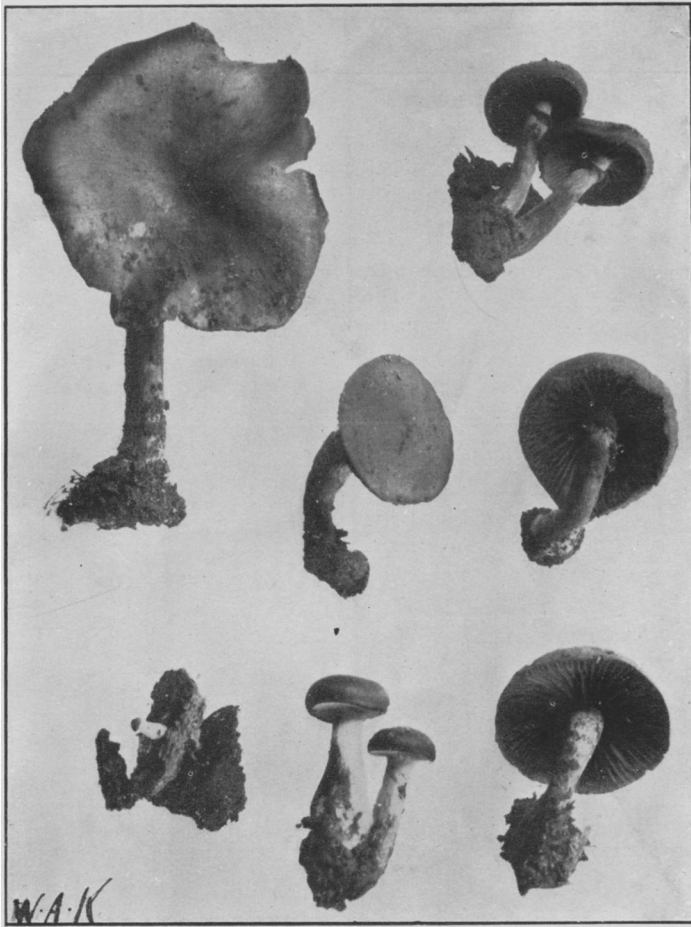


FIG. 118. PHO-LI-O'-TA U-NIC'-O-LOR. A common fungus growing on decayed wood. The plants are more or less clustered, bay, bay brown, or buff color, having ochraceous spores. This is not known to be edible, in fact we may look upon many *Pholiotas* with suspicion. MacIlvaine remarks, however, as follows: "Stevenson notes in his description of the genus: 'None are to be commended as edible.' My investigation shows that there are several delicious species, notably *P. squarrosa* and *subquarrosa*. Their lateness and plentifulness make them valuable food fungi. I have nothing but praise for the entire genus." The plants from which the photograph was taken occurred in a woods near Columbus, first brought in by H. H. York, in June.

IT BECOMES NECESSARY to call attention to the fact that Vol. I of the MYCOLOGICAL BULLETIN is exhausted. It is hoped that the set of Nos. (1-12) comprising Vol. I may be bought back from those who were but are not now subscribers. Any or all these Nos. are solicited—and perhaps present subscribers may be able in some cases to assist the editor in recovering the same, which would be a great accommodation to several parties.

The Mycological Bulletin is issued on the 1st and 15th of each Month, Price 25c. Copies of Vol. II (1904) may be had for 50 cents each, or cloth bound copies for 75 cents. No copies remain of Vol. I (1903). Address, W. A. Kellerman Columbus Ohio.